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NEWS RELEASE

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CITY'S DRUG ABATEMENT RESPONSE TEAM HELPS TO TRANSFORM CRIME-INFESTED PROPERTY INTO REPUTABLE BUSINESS

Site Visit by City Attorney Casey Gwinn and Council member Frye

San Diego, CA: It was once a dilapidated fourteen-room motel known for drug, prostitution and other criminal activity. But aggressive law enforcement and legal action by the City's Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) has transformed the "Bay View Motel" into a fully renovated boutique inn catering to tourists and corporate clients. It is now called the Seaside Inn, located at 1315 Morena Boulevard. "We're proud of the role that DART played in helping to transform this problem property," said City Attorney Casey Gwinn. In addition to comprehensively addressing the problems on the property in a timely manner, DART potentially saved the City millions of dollars by obviating the need for redevelopment."

Because of the rampant criminal activity and blight in the immediate area, caused by the deteriorated condition and mismanagement of the motel, the local community planning group and project area committee had discussed the possibility of seeking public funds to acquire and redevelop the property. However, there was no need to pursue that course of action. "The former Bay View Motel was a major detriment to the Linda Vista community and the Morena Boulevard area," said Councilmember Donna Frye. "Understanding this concern, I worked closely with the City's Drug Abatement Response Team and concerned community members to remedy the situation. The result of this hard work is the opening of the Seaside Inn."

In March 2003, DART prosecutors obtained a court-ordered injunction against the owner of the property. The owner was given the option of selling the property, or correcting all of the code violations on the property and operating the property in a responsible manner. He chose the latter. To date, the owner has invested over \$100,000 into the property. The renovations include modern keycard access entry, new attached mini-suite, updated neutral décor, cable television, microwave, refrigerator, and telephones.

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To launch its grand re-opening under new management, the Seaside Inn hosted an open house for the public to have an opportunity to see the modern renovations and positive changes that have taken place there over the past few months.

The Seaside Inn is now being operated by Packard Management Group, an experienced, professional hotel management company based locally in San Diego. “We are aware of the long problematic history of this property and stand fully committed to running this inn in a professional and responsible manner. By hosting this open house, we wanted to show everybody the positive changes that we’ve made here because sometimes people need to see it to believe it. About the only thing missing here now is the room service,” stated Michael Goldstein, President of Packard Management Group.

DART is the City’s inter-departmental task force comprised of the City Attorney’s Office, the San Diego Police Department, and Neighborhood Code Compliance Department. Through a variety of civil and criminal remedies, DART’s mission is to comprehensively target properties that have become a public nuisance by virtue of drug, prostitution, gang, and other criminal activity. For more information visit the City Attorney’s website: www.sandiegocityattorney.org ; click Neighborhood Solutions; DART.

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